

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 23 with the following amended paragraph:

One example of an application for the hardware-based multithreaded processor 12 is as a network processor. As a network processor, the hardware-based multithreaded processor 12 interfaces to network devices such as a media access controller device e.g., a 10/100BaseT Octal MAC 13a or a Gigabit Ethernet device 13b and a security policy database (SPD) 55 stored in memory (either SRAM or SDRAM). In some embodiments, a network-forwarding device would also include a framer and a switching fabric 13c. In general, as a network processor, the hardware-based multithreaded processor 12 can interface to any type of communication device or interface that receives/sends large amounts of data. Communication system 10 functioning in a networking application could receive a plurality of network packets from the devices 13a, 13b and process those packets in a parallel manner. With the hardware-based multithreaded processor 12, each network packet can be independently processed.